

REMARKS

The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 28, 2008. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to all outstanding rejections and/or objections, that they be withdrawn, and to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 and 21-26 are under consideration in this application. Claim 27 is being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 25-26 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, especially page 37, lines 16-23. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

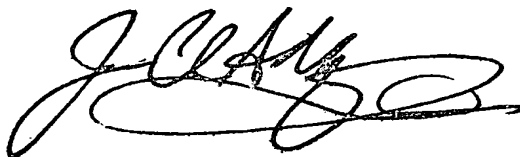
Claims 1-15 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated, the claims are being amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Marquez', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

February 25, 2009

JCM/JT